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Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission
Conseil de la radiodiffusion et des télécommunications canadiennes
Canada

News Release

November 22, 1995

CRTC TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING ON AFFORDABLE LOCAL TELEPHONE SERVICE OPTIONS

OTTAWA-HULL - The CRTC today announced it will hold a public hearing to consider mechanisms to ensure that local telephone services remain affordable for low-income consumers. The public hearing will begin on April 15, 1996 in Hull, Quebec (Telecom Public Notice CRTC 95-49).

To make the process more accessible to the general public, there will also be a series of regional consultations held in major centres across the country. The dates and locations of these consultations will be announced in a future notice.

"A few weeks ago, the Commission set out a regulatory framework aimed at establishing a stable competitive environment for telephone companies," CRTC Chairman Keith Spicer said. "It is also important, however, that local telephone service continue to be affordable to low-income consumers. This broadly-based, open process will provide an opportunity to hear everybody's views."

The public hearing will look into a number of issues related to local service pricing options, including the range within which rates for local service would continue to be affordable, the scope of the services to be provided, the impact of pricing options on the competitiveness of the long distance and local markets, and concerns regarding other costs of local services such as security deposits, installation fees and service charges.

Anyone wishing to participate in the Hull public hearing must notify the Commission in writing by December 19, 1995. The federally-regulated Stentor member telephone companies, Ed Tel and other parties must file submissions by January 19, 1996, reply submissions by February 19, 1996 and file arguments by the conclusion of the public hearing.

Anyone may submit comments on the issues raised in this proceeding as long as they are sent in writing to the Commission before the beginning of the public hearing. Brief oral presentations can also be made at the regional consultations.

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Copies of today's public notice are available through our Internet home page (http://www.crtc.gc.ca) or by contacting the public examination room of any CRTC office:

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